ASU's Anderson sets high bar in search for football coach

SPORTS, 1C

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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DEADLY I-17

Study: Arizona interstate among nation's deadliest

Yihyun Jeong
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Interstate 17 is No. 4 on a list of the deadliest highways in the nation, and the section through Phoenix is considered the most dangerous stretch of the interstate, according to a study by the GPS tracking company Teletrac Navman.

From 2011 to 2015, there were 123 fatalities on the 75-mile-long freeway between Flagstaff and Phoenix, the study says. That's one death every .87 miles, it was reported.

The findings are based on federal Fatal Accident Reporting System data retrieved from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The data show 49 deaths occurred on I-17 inside Phoenix city limits.

According to an analysis by *The Arizona Republic*, the deadliest sections on I-17 between 2013 to 2015 were Bell Road to Greenway Road, with five crashes in 1 mile, and Happy Valley Road to Loop 303, with eight crashes in 4 miles.

From 2013 to 2015, a fatal freeway accident occurred in the Valley about every five days, leaving 207 people dead, *The Republic's* analysis shows.

Fatalities on Arizona's urban freeways and interstates occurred at a rate 61 percent higher than the national average, according to 2013 Federal Highway Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data.

The Teletrac Navman study broke down the most dangerous time to be on I-17: March 3 between 3 and 4 p.m. Saturdays were the most common days for fa-

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From 2013 to 2015, a fatal freeway accident occurred in the Valley about every five days, leaving 207 people dead.

Authorities work the scene of a fatal crash on Interstate 17 in November 2014. DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

A wrong-way crash on I-17 in April left three people dead. MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Two people were killed and two hurt in a wreck in May. MEGHAN FINNERTY/THE REPUBLIC

How other cities rank

Interstate 4, running from Tampa to Daytona Beach, Florida, was named the most dangerous highway in the country. More than 165 people were killed along the 132-mile interstate from 2011 to 2015.

That's 1.25 fatalities for each mile.

Here are the top 5 deadliest highways:

1. Interstate 4
2. Interstate 25, which runs from Dallas to Galveston, Texas.
3. U.S. 192, which runs from Four Corners, Florida, to Indialantic, Florida.
4. **I-17**
5. Interstate 95, which runs from Miami to Weston, Massachusetts.

Buckeye police facing inquiry

City probes reports that crime stats were falsified

Jason Pohl
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Buckeye has hired an independent investigator to look into reports that senior police leaders ordered officers to falsify crime statistics in an effort to make the West Valley city more-appealing to potential residents and businesses.

Buckeye officials also have asked the private investigator to examine more than a dozen allegations of wrongdoing and corruption that have created a "hostile work environment."

The wide-reaching claims came from "numerous employees" within the city's 93-officer Police Department in a recent letter to the city manager and members of Buckeye's City Council.

That letter, obtained by *The Arizona Republic,* contains a range of allegations about senior law-enforcement officials, including claims that department heads inconsistently reprimand officers across ranks who commit major policy violations and operate side businesses that present clear conflicts

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Metro Phoenix is getting even more expensive for homebuyers

Catherine Reagor
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Metro Phoenix continues to drop lower on lists of the most affordable big cities in which to buy a home.

Because of steadily rising home prices, the Valley now ranks 19th among the top 50 U.S. metro areas. The list, by national mortgage firm HSH.com, indicates where buyers earning the median income have the easiest time affording a median-priced home.

Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Indianapolis, in that order, are the three most-affordable major metros for affording a home.

San Jose, San Francisco and San

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Get real-time data on real estate in metro Phoenix at **streetscout.com**.

Bill would ban marriage for minors in Ariz.

Kaila White
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Arizona lawmaker is proposing a bill to make it illegal for children under age 18 to marry — even with a parent's consent.

Arizona currently has no minimum age.

State Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, R-Scottsdale, introduced House Bill 2006 last week. The legislative session begins in January.

"I cannot think of a credible reason to allow a child to get married, and I think the clearest solution is just to set the minimum age at 18," Ugenti-Rita told *The Arizona Republic* Tuesday.

Current Arizona law ARS 25-102 allows people under 18 to marry so long as they have the consent of one parent or legal guardian. Anyone under 16 must also get "the approval of any superior court judge in the state" and, in some cases, premarital counseling.

"Why we have exceptions to allow children to get married is beyond me," Ugenti-Rita said. "You look at cigarettes, lottery tickets, gambling, alcohol, voting, they all come with age re-

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Jay-Z receives eight Grammy nominations Tuesday as the finalists for the 60th annual music honors are announced. The 2018 Grammy Awards will be broadcast Jan. 28 from New York. SCOTT ROTH/INVISION

Ex-staffer reached quiet settlement with Grijalva

U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva reportedly made a $48,000 settlement in 2015 with a woman who made accusations about a hostile work environment. **3A**

Laurie Roberts: Taxpayers pay the bill in Grijalva case, but aren't allowed to know the details. **3A**

Restaurant group backed

Upward Projects, one of the Valley's most successful restaurant groups, is about to get a big-time financial boost to grow in and beyond Arizona. **17A**

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